



# USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1520-6122

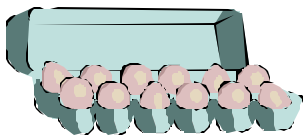
TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 22, 2000  
VOL. 47 NO. 15

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch



## NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Prices were significantly lower throughout the country. The market tone was mostly weak and unsettled. Retail demand ranged slow to fair, with best movement usually centering around the occasional retail feature. Additionally, movement through food service channels was light to no better than moderate. Supplies of all sizes were at least adequate to ample. Breaking stock supplies were sufficient from regular sources, and demand for additional product was limited as dealers cautiously assessed market developments. Light type fowl were fully adequate for immediate needs.

**NORTH ATLANTIC** In Philadelphia, prices ranged from 5-9 cents lower on all sizes; in Boston, prices ranged from 2-17 cents lower for extra large, 2-15 cents lower for large, and unchanged to 15 cents lower for mediums when based on previous week average prices. Prices paid to producers in New England were five cents lower on extra large and large, unchanged on the remainder of prices. The market tone was unsettled and weak. Food service demand was generally light to moderate and slow to fair into retail channels. Supplies were at least adequate to ample. Breaking stock supplies from regular sources were adequate to fully adequate for the cautious demand. Light type fowl were fully adequate for processing schedules.

**NEW YORK** Prices were five cents lower on all sizes. The market tone was weak. Retail demand was slow to fair and food service was mostly light to occasionally moderate. Supplies were fully adequate to ample.

**CHICAGO** Prices were 2 cents lower for all sizes. The trade sentiment steady to weak. Retail and food service demand mixed and ranged from light to moderate, best to features that are planned or in progress. Supplies adequate.

**MIDWEST** Prices in Detroit and major Ohio and Wisconsin cities were sharply lower for medium through jumbo and were unchanged for small. Prices to producers in Iowa-Minnesota-Wisconsin and prices in Chicago were 2 cents lower for extra large, large, and medium and were not changed for small. The trade sentiment was weak. Retail demand was mostly light to at times fair. Food service movement was slow to moderate. Supplies were fully adequate to ample for all sizes. Central States nest run breaking stock prices were unchanged to lower. Buyers were bidding lower prices and trading and demand was mostly light. Floor stocks were in close balance to adequate for current needs. Trade sentiment barely steady.

**SOUTHERN** Prices were sharply lower. The market tone was generally weak and unsettled. Demand was usually no better than fair and retail movement had generally slowed. Supplies were at least adequate to ample. The average price on Grade A or better white cartoned large eggs delivered to volume buyers in the Southern region for the week ending February 18, 2000, was 80.77 cents, 14.38 cents more than the week before, and 15.53 cents less than the same week last year. Breaking stock supplies were usually sufficient, however, demand for additional product was limited as dealers gauged market developments. Light type hens were sufficient for current processors' needs.

**WESTERN** Prices 15 cents lower on all sizes throughout the region. The Pacific region inventory was 9% higher than last week with California up 7% and Oregon-Washington-Utah up 11%. Retailer demand light, best to cover planned features. Offerings ample.

**PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A AND US GRADE A WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR OR WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.**

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
<b>NORTHEAST CITIES</b>			
Boston (Brown)	99-101	92-96	66-68
New York	63-65	60-63	51-54
Philadelphia	61-74	59-72	50-62
<b>SOUTHERN CITIES</b>			
Atlanta (1) (2)	59-60	57.5-59	49-50
Jackson (1)	69-70	66-67	58-59
Major Louisiana Cities (1)	66-79	63-77	53-67
<b>MIDWEST CITIES</b>			
Chicago	56-61	55-60	45-50
Detroit (2)	55-58	54-57	43-46
Major Ohio Cities (2)	56-65.5	55-64	44-53
Major Wisconsin Cities	59-66	57-64	47-54
<b>WESTERN CITIES</b>			
Houston (1)	74-81	71-77	61-67
California(Grade AA)(1)(3)	96	89	79

- (1) - Prices reported weekly
- (2) - Delivered Warehouse
- (3) - Reported Invoice prices

**CALIFORNIA** Prices 15 cents lower on all sizes. The California inventory was 7% higher than last week. Retailer demand light overall, best where features planned. Offerings ample. Small invoice price 59. Ads in Northern California: major- large dozen 88, 18 pack buy 1 get 1 free; smaller outlets- large dozen 89-139.

PRICES INVOICE, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	109
EXTRA LARGE	96
LARGE	89
MEDIUM	79
PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.	
<b>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</b>	
	RANGE
JUMBO	229-289
EXTRA LARGE	219-279
LARGE	199-209
MEDIUM	187-199
<b>NORTHERN CALIFORNIA</b>	
	RANGE
JUMBO	229-269
EXTRA LARGE	219-239
LARGE	189-239
MEDIUM	139-179

**NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT** Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending February 25, 2000 will increase by 1 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending February 18, 2000 were 236,475 cases which was 9 percent below the prior week and 10 percent below estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	200,679	35,796	236,475
% change from the prior week.....	-9	-8	-9

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 17 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

**CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK** Nest run breaking stock prices were unchanged to lower with checks and undergrades unchanged. Trading and demand was mostly light with buyers bidding lower prices. Floor stocks were in close balance to adequate for current needs. Trade sentiment barely steady.  
PRICES PAID TO 11:00 A.M., MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
NEST RUN	28-34	30-32
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	17-20	

CENTRAL STATES AREA:  
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI

**SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN REPORT** Prices were slightly higher compared to the past week. Demand was moderate for at least adequate offerings of heavy hens. Finished sales were fair. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was about steady.  
HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) \*  
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 21-FEB-00

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	8.5-19.5	10-13	12.34

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

**SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN REPORT** Majority trading was unchanged from a week earlier. Demand was moderate to good. Offerings were about adequate to adequate for trade needs. The undertone was steady to fully steady.  
HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) \*  
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 21-FEB-00

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	7-15	8.25-11.75	10.75
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

**WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT- AM Feb 21, 2000**

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/  
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

			NO	SO	SO		5-Area
	Northeast	CENT	CENT	Atl	Pacific		
Jumbo	Curr Wk	10.5	13.0	5.4	12.6	11.7	53.2
	Change	3.4	3.4	0.3	1.4	-0.3	18%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	24.2	30.3	9.1	23.0	20.1	106.7
	Change	6.7	7.4	1.2	5.6	1.5	27%
Large	Curr Wk	44.1	81.7	56.6	73.8	77.2	333.4
	Change	16.2	25.0	10.1	10.2	11.4	28%
Medium	Curr Wk	16.8	32.7	15.3	25.3	21.3	111.4
	Change	4.1	2.6	3.3	7.2	1.0	20%
Small	Curr Wk	5.8	9.1	2.6	7.0	4.6	29.1
	Change	0.9	1.2	0.2	2.8	-0.6	18%
Misc	Curr Wk	4.9	14.4	6.3	9.6	6.1	41.3
	Change	-0.3	-8.2	0.7	0.5	0.9	-13%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	25.7	54.6	7.1	27.2	46.1	160.7
	Change	-6.4	3.0	-2.5	-2.3	1.1	-4%
Total	Curr Wk	132.0	235.8	102.4	178.5	187.1	835.8
Percent	Change	23%	17%	15%	17%	9%	16%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
-------	--------------------	-------------------	--------------------------

Shell Egg	835.8	16%	168
Shell Egg Breaking Stock	415.7	-1%	40

Total Shell Egg	1251.5	9%	208
-----------------	--------	----	-----

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 168 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

\*\*\*\*\*  
No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**CANADIAN EGGS NOT AVAILABLE**

**TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES**— DAILY WTD AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2000

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS				TOTAL LOADS			
19.50								5.75				25.25			
SE		NE		MW		LOADS		SC		NW		SW		LOADS	
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST		CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 2	—	—	—	—	32.00	35.00	4.00	GNR BR 1	—	78.00	—	—	—	—	.50
GNR BR 1	—	77.00	—	—	—	—	3.00	GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	52.00	1.00
GL W J	—	—	—	—	40.50	—	1.00	GL W XL	—	—	—	—	—	53.00	1.00
GL W XL	—	—	—	—	43.00	—	3.00	GL W LG	—	—	—	—	—	52.00	6.00
GL W LG	—	—	—	—	43.00	—	6.00								
GL W MD	—	—	—	—	—	—	.75								
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	30.00	32.00	3.00								
NRBS - 45	—	—	—	—	23.00	25.00	2.00								
NRBS - 39	—	—	—	—	17.00	19.00	2.00								

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

**TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES**— WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 02/12/00-02/18/00

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS				TOTAL LOADS			
107.00								40.75				147.75			
SE		NE		MW		LOADS		SC		NW		SW		LOADS	
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST		CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	55.33	60.00	43.88	49.17	49.00	—	25.00	GNR W 1	58.50	53.71	—	—	—	—	10.00
GNR W 2	—	—	44.50	46.00	32.50	35.00	9.00	GNR W 2	—	37.00	—	—	—	—	2.00
GNR W 3	—	—	—	44.00	—	—	4.00	GNR W 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.00
GNR BR 1	—	77.00	—	—	—	—	5.00	GNR BR 1	—	78.00	—	—	—	—	1.50
GL W J	—	—	65.25	67.00	40.50	—	3.00	GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	52.00	1.00
GL W XL	—	—	47.50	54.60	51.00	—	10.25	GL W XL	49.00	—	—	—	—	53.33	1.50
GL W LG	55.50	—	39.67	55.00	43.88	—	19.75	GL W LG	49.00	—	—	—	—	52.68	15.50
GL W MD	—	—	26.00	43.00	38.47	45.00	8.50	GL W MD	32.00	—	—	—	36.00	39.64	7.25
GL W SM	—	—	37.25	38.75	20.64	24.00	4.75	GL W SM	19.00	—	—	24.00	—	24.50	3.00
NRBS - 48	—	—	27.00	32.75	31.37	33.63	31.00	NRBS - 48	—	32.33	—	—	23.75	27.75	9.25
NRBS - 45	—	—	—	—	26.20	28.20	11.00	NRBS - 45	—	31.00	—	—	—	—	1.00
NRBS - 39	—	—	—	—	17.00	19.00	2.00								

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

**NUMBER OF CASES OF EGGS SHIPPED TO CALIFORNIA 02/06/00 - 02/12/00**

Origin State	CO	IN	IA	MN	MO	NH	OH	OR	PA	TX	UT	WI	TOTAL
N. CA	0	0	1,530	0	0	0	0	1,103	0	0	0	0	2,633
C. CA	0	0	0	840	0	0	0	229	0	0	0	0	1,069
S. CA	3,235	800	10,444	2,475	2,056	820	810	0	780	610	900	1,394	24,324
TTL STATE	3,235	800	11,974	3,315	2,056	820	810	1,332	780	610	900	1,394	28,026

SHIPPED TO MILITARY: 0

**NEW ENGLAND**

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, BROWN EGGS LOOSE, AT FARM, CENTS PER DOZEN.

JUMBO	EX-LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
107-110	77-80	70-73	47-50	16-19

**DETROIT EGGS**

PRICES TO FIRST RECEIVERS, CASES INCLUDED, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, 30 DOZEN CASES, WHITE EGGS LOOSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

JUMBO	EX-LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
63-66	54-60	52-57	41-46	25-29

**IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN**

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
36-38	27-29	15-17

**NORTH CAROLINA EGGS**

PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
71.18	68.29	43.18

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS** (In Thousands)

ON HAND	2/14/00	2/7/00	2/15/99
PACIFIC COAST	134	109	122
LOS ANGELES	0	0	18

**HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS** PRICES DELIVERED TO RETAILERS, GRADE A STORE DOOR FEBRUARY 15, 2000:

	CARTONS	WTG AVG
EX-LARGE	149-155	153.45
LARGE	143-150	148.24
MEDIUM	124-135	132.41
SMALL	105-109	106.29

Receipts from the mainland: 2/6/00-2/12/00  
30-dozen cases 4,157

Receipts from the mainland: 1/30/00-2/5/00  
30-dozen cases 2,605

**CHICKEN AND EGGS**

U.S. egg production totaled 7.15 billion during January 2000, up 2 percent from the 6.98 billion produced in 1999. Production included 6.06 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 65.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2000 averaged 329 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during January 1999. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,176 eggs, up 1 percent from 2,165 eggs in January 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2000 totaled 329 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 329 million layers consisted of 270 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2000, averaged 69.0 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 69.1 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.72 billion eggs during January, up 2 percent from January 1999. The average number of layers during January, at 309 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

**USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS.****POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Grover T. Hunter
	Fax	(202)720-2403	(Chief)
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman
	Fax	(404)562-5875	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(404)562-5856	
Jackson, MS	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown
	Fax	(601)965-4661	(Officer-In-Charge)
Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins
	Fax	(515)284-4468	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
Bell, CA	Voice	(323)269-4154	Jim Derby
	Fax	(323)269-5926	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(323)260-4676	